

# Town remembered in book of historic photographs

DUXBURY

By ANNE TRAFTON  
The Patriot Ledger

In the 1840s, a young man named William J. Dunham set off from Duxbury to make his fortune in California. Sometime after his return, around 1855, Dunham posed for a photograph that is the oldest picture in a new book, "Duxbury, An Album."

The book, which will be published later this month, features nearly 280 historic photographs, most from around the turn of the century. Many of the photos have never been published, according to Norman Forgit, who spent the past year researching and selecting the photographs.

Just over half the photos came from the society's

archives, and the rest from residents' photo collections.

"When you have pictures that show the town the way it was, it's nice to get it out so people get a chance to see everything," said Forgit, a graphic designer and member of the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society.

"I think people are going to have fun seeing these," he said.

A photo of the Alden House, taken in the late 1800s, shows the home looking much as it does today, but without the development that now surrounds it.

Photos also reveal that in the early 1900s, a potato farm

used to operate near Powder Point, now full of waterfront homes.

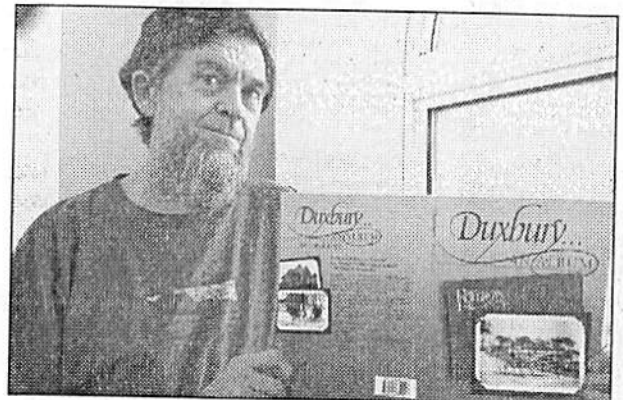
"Duxbury has a long history and because of that, it's gone through a number of phases," Forgit said.

For many years, Duxbury was a shipbuilding center, but when that industry died out, the town struggled economically for some time.

That helped the town preserve its historical character, Forgit said, because townspeople didn't have the money to tear down their old homes and build fancy new ones during the Victorian era.

"It's a town that has maintained its character very well,"

Please see BOOK — Page 19



LISA BUL/The Patriot Ledger

**Norman Forgit of Duxbury has compiled a new book called "Duxbury . . . An Album," of historic photographs and maps of Duxbury's neighborhoods.**

## Duxbury's past springs to life in photograph book

### ■ BOOK

Continued from Page 17

Forgit said.

The book has sections devoted to several Duxbury neighborhoods, including Snug Harbor, Hall's Corner, Island Creek, Millbrook and Powder Point.

Interspersed between the neighborhood chapters are sections devoted to work, play, school, celebrations, and storms and disasters.

The celebrations section includes photos of the 1933 July Fourth celebration in Snug Harbor, and the town's 250th anniversary celebration, which was held in 1887 at the estate of the Wright family, now the site of Duxbury High School.

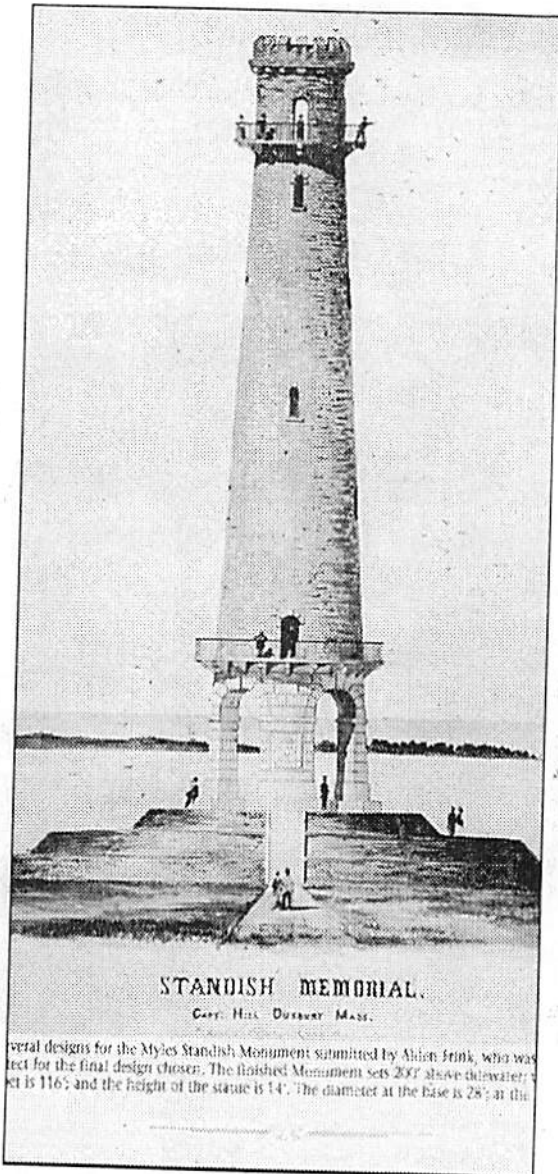
Forgit, who lives in Hanson, got involved with the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society while he lived in Duxbury in the early 1970s.

The book is one of several published by the society, including "Duxbury, A Guide" by Katherine Pillsbury and "Settlement and Growth of Duxbury 1628-1870," by Dorothy Wentworth.

Unlike those volumes, "Duxbury, An Album" is predominantly filled with photographs and has little text.

The book can be purchased at a prepublication price of \$19.99, which will expire on Nov. 15. After publication, the book will cost \$24.95. Anyone who wants to order a copy may call the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society at 781-934-6106.

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This photo of Standish Memorial is included in "Duxbury . . . An Album."

Please notify the Secretary of any change or error in your address.

SOCIETY OF  
CALIFORNIA PIONEERS OF NEW ENGLAND.

Boston, Sept. 9, 1909

Received of Mr. Wm. J. Dunham  
Three  
One Dollar for annual assessment, as a member, to  
July 1, 1910.  
68, 09, 8-1910

Stephen W. Foster, Secretary.

LISA BUL/The Patriot Ledger

**"Duxbury . . . An Album,"** is a collection of historic photographs and maps of Duxbury's neighborhoods. The man on the left in the photograph of the two men, William J. Dunham, went to California to dig for gold. The house in the upper left photo is where Dunham lived in Duxbury after returning.